



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District**

Dale Hollow Lake

Lake Casts



Spring 2008

Cutting, Damaging, or Destroying Trees and Vegetation on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Property is a Federal Crime

Trees and vegetation on publicly owned lands surrounding Dale Hollow Lake are being severely damaged, cut, or destroyed by individuals who own private land adjacent to public property. In some cases, trees located on adjacent privately-owned lands are being cut and allowed to fall onto trees on public lands, resulting in damage that often proves fatal to those trees. However, in most recent cases, adjacent property owners are knowingly crossing from their adjacent private property onto public property and destroying or severely damaging trees and other types of vegetation on public property to create a view of the lake from their private residences or to extend their lawns.

Cutting of trees or the damage or removal of any vegetation for any purpose, including timber harvesting, creating views of the lake, pruning, landscaping, mowing or underbrushing is a federal crime and is punishable under the provisions of Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 327. Any person who violates the provisions of Title 36, CFR, Part 327, may be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months or both, and may be tried and sentenced in accordance with the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3401. Restitution as determined by the trunk formula method as published by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers in the "Guide for Plant Appraisal, 9th Edition, 2000" may be used to assess damages done to public property as well.

Primarily due to the outstanding environmental quality and aesthetics of Dale Hollow

Lake and the pristine forested shoreline, the lake and the surrounding public property are well known to a diverse group of outdoor recreationists and attract more than three million visitors annually from Tennessee, Kentucky and surrounding states. The 27,700-acre lake and the 620 miles of beautiful forested shoreline adjacent to the approximately 24,842 acres of public lands draw those visitors and prompt them to add more than \$65 million to the local economy as they pursue outdoor recreational activities such as wildlife viewing and photography, boating, fishing, hunting, camping, picnicking, hiking, or just simply sight-seeing.

The vast majority of the forested hillsides, including the privately owned lands adjacent to the public shoreline, once stretched unbroken the entire 61-mile length of the lake from Dale Hollow Dam to its headwaters at the convergence of the East and West forks of the Obey River. This natural primitive landscape of trees and



wildlife is rapidly disappearing and being replaced with development that includes individual cabins and subdivided neighborhood complexes of homes and streets.

The increased pressures of this residential development adjacent to public lands surrounding Dale Hollow

Lake is resulting in a significant increase in the number of newly discovered cases of damage and destruction of trees and vegetation on public lands. It appears that some adjacent lakeshore residents are willing to damage or destroy public property for personal financial gain and/or to obtain improvements to their personal property in the form of lake views and vistas for their homes.

Actions by property owners adjacent to public land that involve the destruction of the environmental features of the lake and surrounding forested shoreline also create potentially severe erosion problems. The presence of the natural shoreline is necessary to maintain the pristine water quality of Dale Hollow Lake. Natural vegetation along the shoreline acts as a buffer and helps to purify run-off water and control erosion along the steep hillsides. The city of Byrdstown is dependent on this vegetation as Dale Hollow Lake provides the residents with drinking water.

Individuals who illegally cut trees and vegetation in this important and sensitive “buffer zone” on public property are committing federal criminal acts of vandalism. It is the Corps’ goal to maintain and preserve the outstanding features of Dale Hollow Lake for the full benefit of the general public and future generations of Americans. Replacement of 100-year-old trees along the boundary line is far more difficult than repairing a vandalized restroom door at a park recreation area or a picnic table at a campsite. These violators are doing more than simply destroying government property - they are stealing. They are stealing from their neighbors, friends, and visitors to the lake by removing the picturesque and remote quality that attracts many varied users to Dale Hollow Lake. They are destroying the crystal clear waters Dale Hollow Lake offers for everyone’s enjoyment, not just those perched upon the hills looking down on this unique reservoir.

In the past several years, the Corps has worked closely with violators to either restore the damaged areas or to collect the monetary value of the damages and utilize the money to enhance or protect

the natural resources at the lake without fully prosecuting the violators through the federal court system. However, a more effective approach is necessary to deter the rash of acts of vandalism and to ensure the long-term environmental quality of the lake and surrounding shoreline. For this reason, all future acts of vandalism will be investigated and all findings will be turned over to the United States Attorney’s Office for prospective prosecution through the federal criminal court system. The Resource Manager and Park Rangers have identified this as a high priority and are working diligently to locate, investigate and consider federal prosecution in all cases of destruction of public property.

During recent investigations of tree vandalism cases, violators have provided false statements concerning the facts of the cases to Park Rangers. Providing false statements to federal officers is also a federal crime. Any person who provides a false statement to a federal officer is subject to prosecution under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

Local residents can help stop this degradation of our lake scenery. Although the Corps is making every effort to locate and take the appropriate action against offenders, our most important asset could be the eyes and ears of the general public. Community members are invited to help protect this important natural resource and provide timely assistance by calling the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resource Manager’s Office at Dale Hollow Lake if they hear a chainsaw or bulldozer at work in an area they believe is government property.

Reporting violations such as dumping of trash, release of sewage and human wastes (treated or untreated) from boats, or the construction of unauthorized roadways onto government property is also strongly encouraged. The identity of all individuals that report unauthorized activities will be kept confidential or anonymous, and all reported violations will be investigated.

Anyone who observes or has knowledge of theft, vandalism, or any other threat or suspicious activity

against Corps property is also encouraged to participate in the “Corps Watch” program, which is a nationwide crime-watch program developed to protect Corps of Engineers property. Each year, millions of dollars are lost due to property damage from vandalism, larceny, arson, and environmental and cultural resource degradation. This program is designed to heighten public awareness of the seriousness of the impacts of crime within or around dams, lakes, locks, recreation areas, and other Corps of Engineers property and facilities.

Authorized by Section 205 of the Water Resource Development Act of 2000 and the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535), national funding is available to issue rewards of up to \$1,000 to individuals for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of offenders. “Corps Watch” uses a 24-hour-a-day toll free hotline that assures the identity of the caller is protected and the proper authorities are notified. To report theft, vandalism, or any threat or suspicious activity against Corps property, please call the “Corps Watch” hotline at 1-866-413-7970.

You can help protect the rolling hills above Dale Hollow Lake as an unspoiled, natural, and timeless beauty. Please call the Dale Hollow Lake Resource Manager’s Office at (931) 243-3136, Monday - Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, CST for additional information or to learn how you can help protect the outstanding environmental quality of the land and water resources at Dale Hollow Lake. As always, your help with our efforts to better manage these resources is greatly appreciated.

Know Where the Property Line Is

The boundary of the entire 24,842 acres of public property around Dale Hollow Lake is identified uniformly. This property line is marked by yellow paint (white paint at monuments), signs on trees, metal standing signs, and carsonite signs. If you live adjacent to public property on Dale Hollow Lake and cannot locate the property line you share with the US Army Corps of Engineers, please contact our office at the number above. One of our Ranger staff will be readily available to meet with you in order to locate the boundary line

adjacent to your property and answer any specific questions concerning public property. Brochures are available for all adjacent property owners that illustrate the marking and identification of public boundary lines surrounding Dale Hollow Lake.

Dale Hollow Lake Website

Have a question about Dale Hollow Lake? You can obtain information regarding a wide variety of topics relating to the lake at:

<http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/op/dal/rec/>

Information on shoreline management, fishing, camping, hunting, and boating is offered. Take a look for yourself, it will become a favorite!



**Resource Managers Office
Dale Hollow Lake
540 Dale Hollow Dam Road**

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Lakecasts Page 4

Meet the Staff

If you're a newcomer to Dale Hollow Lake, or if it has just been a while since you have had the need to contact us, you may not be familiar with the Corps employees who work in the Resource Manager's Office.

The Dale Hollow Lake Resource staff is available to assist you in any way we can. In an effort to better serve your needs, the lake is divided into four areas of responsibility. Each area is assigned to a Ranger. The assignments are as follows:

Stephen Beason – Resource Manager

Ranger Sondra Carmen – (Area 1)

Left descending bank beginning at the dam to the head of Sidwell Creek in Irons Creek. Also includes all of the Obey River downstream of the

dam and all of the Cumberland River in Clay County.

Ranger Mark Willis – (Area 2)

Left descending bank from Sidwell Creek in Irons Creek to the right descending bank of Obey river at the Hwy 111 bridge crossing. Includes both East and West Forks of the Obey River.

Ranger Brock Jones – (Area 3)

Right descending bank of Obey River from the Hwy 111 bridge crossing to the head of Williams Creek in Sulphur Creek. Includes all of Wolf River.

Ranger Gregg Nivens – (Area 4)

Right descending bank from the head of Williams Creek in Sulphur Creek to the dam. Includes all of the Cumberland River in Monroe and Cumberland County.